

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3153

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS LUANDA 0002

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SUBJECT: KATANGAN GENDARMES OPT TO REMAIN IN ANGOLA; GOZ OFFENDED

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN THE OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL INFORMATION ON DECEMBER 20, TWO SPOKESMEN FOR THE 4,000 FORMER KATANGAN GENDARMES OF MOISE TSHOMBE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAVE DECIDED TO REMAIN IN ANGOLA RATHER THAN RETURN TO ZAIRE AND ACCEPT THE AMNESTY OFFERED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU.

2. PRIOR TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE KATANGAN REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH THE NEW ZAIRIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN LUANDA, BUKAVA MUTEBO KAMULETA TO DISCUSS THE AMNESTY. IN THEIR STATEMENT AFTER THE MEETING THE KATANGANS SAID THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE, "DOES NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN US." THEY ADDED THAT AS A RESULT OF THEIR LONG YEARS IN ANGOLA THEY HAVE MARRIED ANGOLANS, SPEAK PORTUGUESE AND IN GENERAL ARE BEING ASSIMILATED INTO ANGOLAN SOCIETY.

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3. THE ZAIRIAN CONSUL GENERAL CLAIMS HE WAS ASKED TO COME TO THE INFORMATION OFFICE, BUT WAS NOT TOLD THE REASON. AFTER HE MET WITH THE KATANGANS AND THEY ISSUED THEIR STATEMENT, HE FELT HE HAD BEEN BADLY USED AND MADE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT REFUSED PUBLICATION BECAUSE IT CONTAINED INFORMATION THE AUTHORITIES HERE BELIEVED TO BE NOT FACTUAL. BUKAVA LEFT IMMEDIATELY FOR KINSHASA TO CONSULT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. ON DECEMBER 27, AZAP STATED THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING WITH THAT LIBERATION GROUP WITH WHICH IT SHARES A COMMON IDEOLOGY, THE MPLA, TO DELIBERATELY CREATE PROBLEM; AND TO HOLD "OUR COMPATRIOTS IN ANGOLA AGAINST THEIR WILL". AZAP ALSO CLAIMED THAT NETO MET WITH ANGOLAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO IN THE CAMP OF EX-GENDARMES IN ORDER TO RECRUIT THE KATANGANS FOR MPLA AND ADDED THAT MPLA NEEDS TO HIRE TROOPS BECAUSE IT HAS NONE OF ITS OWN. AZAP SAID THESE ACTS BY PORTUGAL COULD ENDANGER RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES AND "GRAVELY COMPROMISE THE FUTURE OF ANGOLA".

5. THE ANGOLAN SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION ISSUED A REPLY ON DECEMBER 29, DENYING THAT NETO AND THE ADMIRAL HAD MET AT THE GENDARME CAMP IN EASTERN ANGOLA AND POINTING OUT THAT THE ZAIRIAN CONSUL GENERAL MET WITH KATANGAN REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THEIR DECISION WAS MADE PUBLIC. THE COMMUNIQUE DEPLORED THE LANGUAGE USED IN THE AZAP COMMUNIQUE, WHICH "DID NOT CORRESPOND TO THE COURTESY AND GOOD FAITH WITH WHICH THE ZAIRIAN CONSULAR AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND TREATED IN ANGOLA".

6. TO SHOW THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT'S GOOD FAITH IN THIS MATTER, THE SECRETARY OF SOCIAL INFORMATION SAID THAT THE ZAIRIAN CONSUL GENERAL COULD ATTEND A MEETING WITH A MORE NUMEROUS DELEGATION OF KATANGANS, PRESUMABLY AT THEIR CAMP, AND THAT THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WOULD PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR THE ZAIRIANS DURING THEIR MEETING. THEY WERE, HE SAID, AWAITING A ZAIRIAN REPLY TO THEIR PROPOSAL. ALSO, HE SAID, A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION COMPOSED OF THE ANGOLAN NAVAL COMMANDER, LEONEL CARDOSO, THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER, SILVA CARDOSO AND DR JORGE CAMPINOS OF THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE IN KINSHASA HAVING DIRECT CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU, DURING WHICH THE KATANGAN GENDARME ISSUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

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7. ON DECEMBER 30 MPLA'S HEADQUARTERS IN LUANDA PUBLISHED THEIR OWN DENIAL OF THE MEETING BETWEEN NETO AND COUTINHO IN THE KATANGAN CAMP. IT TOOK STRONG OBJECTION TO THE AZAP ASSERTION THAT MPLA WAS GOING TO HIRE THE KATANGANS TO SERVE IN ITS ARMY. KILLORAN

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